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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 8 Feb 54

SUBJECT Council for Economic Mutual Assistance (CEMA)

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1

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1. The Council for Economic Mutual Assistance (CEMA) within the Import-Export Agency was called "Cooperation with Democratic Countries". Its purpose was to give assistance in purchasing goods not obtainable by other Satellite countries, and to exchange information concerning various companies, goods and prices on the world market.
2. Organization and administration of the cooperation with democratic countries division was entrusted to one man. He had no secretary or subordinates to assist when need arose. All correspondence and business actions were handled by him. Projects were classified top secret.
3. Actions performed by the chief were controlled by the director of the Import-Export Agency. The chief averaged three trips per week to Warsaw in order to receive instructions from the Minister.

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4.

5. Under the cooperation plan only shoes were imported from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Those received from Hungary were worthless. Of one shipment of 40,000 pairs of shoes 50% had to be returned because of inferior quality. Another time 1,000 pairs arrived and this time all had to be returned because all shoes were left-footed.
6. The mutual assistance is far from being mutual. There are constant disagreements, cheating, overcharging and shortages in shipments. Ministries of the various Satellite countries have cases lasting for three years and are still unable to solve the problems which have arisen as the result of the mutual assistance.

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